

REMARKS

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been amended to more clearly claim the present invention. In particular, claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations previously included in Claims 19-20 which have now been deleted. Where appropriate, the remaining claims have been amended to be properly re-numbered. Claims 15-18 remain unchanged.

Thus, as now recited in amended claim 14, the solid carrier is first pre-treated with poly-L-lysine, polyethylene imine or polyalkylamine. The aqueous solution containing the hydrophilic polymer and the oligonucleotide and/or polynucleotide is then spotted onto the carrier to fix the compound to the carrier by electrostatic bonding. Thereafter, the carrier is washed, dried and heated or exposed to radiation. Inasmuch, as claim 14 now incorporates the recitation of prior claim 21 which was not subjected to the anticipated rejection set forth in paragraph 3 beginning on page 2 of the office action, it is clear that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Brown et al. '522 patent is no longer appropriate and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Similarly, Claims 14, 16-20 and 22-25 were rejected as being obvious over the combination of Brown et al. taken with Rudolph '842. Claim 21 was not included in this rejection and inasmuch as Claim 14 now includes the recitation of claim 21, this rejection also is no longer pertinent and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action wherein the Claims are rejected over Brown et al. taken with either Rudolph and/or the Running et al. article in Bio Techniques are also requested. Running et al. is relied on by the Examiner as teaching the coupling of a nucleic acid having an aldehyde group to a solid support coated with poly-L-lysine. However, a careful review of the Running et al. reference shows that it does not disclose the use of a nucleic acid having an amino group which is now required in claim 14. Rather, Running et al. teaches only the use of a nucleic acid having an aldehyde group. There is simply no suggestion in this reference that the nucleic acid should have an amino group. Consequently, Running et al. adds nothing to the

Brown et al. and Rudolph et al. references to make them more relevant to the present invention as claimed.

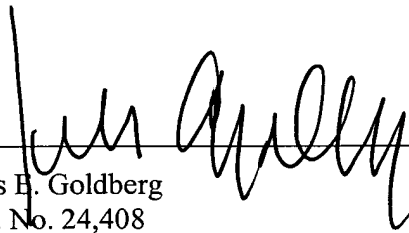
Moreover, none of the prior art references relied on by the Examiner suggest the specific combination now recited in amended claim 14 wherein the fixation of the oligonucleotide or polynucleotide to the solid carrier is accomplished by electrostatic bonding. Accordingly, the rejection on this combination of references is unwarranted and these rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and prompt Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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